

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 ISO-00 USIA-12 /022 W

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P 161015Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4441

UNCLAS NAIROBI 7825

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, KE

SUBJECT: KENYAN TENTH ANNIVERSARY: DIZZY GILLESPIE

REF: STATE 212137

1. ALTHOUGH GOK PLANS FOR TENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS NOT COMPLETELY FIRM AS YET, PROTOCOL CHIEF GACHUKIA HAS SUGGESTED TO EMBASSY FOLLOWING POSSIBILITIES FOR THREE PERFORMANCES BY DIZZY GILLESPIE GROUP: (A) SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, EVENING --45- TO 60-MINUTE SET AT FINALS OF MISS TENTH ANNIVERSARY BEAUTY CONTEST AT HILTON HOTEL TO BE ATTENDED BY 300 INVITED GUESTS; (B) MONDAY, DECEMBER 10, EVENING-- FULL EXCLUSIVE CONCERT BY QUARTET AT KENYATTA CONFERENCE CENTER PLENARY HALL WHICH HAS CAPACITY OF 3,000; (C) TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, EVENING --45- TO 60-MINUTE SET AT OPEN-AIR PERFORMANCE OF TRADITIONAL DANCES AND OTHER CEREMONIES WITH EXPECTED ATTENDANCE OF 4,000; (D) WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, EVENING--45- TO 60-MINUTE SET AT TENTH ANNIVERSARY BALL AT KENYATTA CONFERENCE CENTER FOR 2,000 INVITED GUESTS. (WHILE LOCAL DANCE BAND WILL PLAY AT OTHER TIMES DURING BALL, GACHUKIA ASKED WHETHER QUARTET WOULD ALSO PLAY DANCE MUSIC DURING ITS SET. WE REPLIED THAT WE THOUGHT NOT, BUT WOULD INQUIRE. PLEASE ADVISE.)

2. WE WOULD RECOMMEND ACCEPTANCE OF PROPOSALS (B) AND (D) ABOVE, BUT BELIEVE THAT (A) AND (C) MAY PRESENT

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PROBLEMS. IF QUARTET WISHES TO PLAY DECEMBER 8,

THEY WOULD PRESUMABLY WISH TO ARRIVE NAIROBI DECEMBER 6 OR EARLY DECEMBER 7 TO ALLOW FOR TIME ZONE ADJUSTMENT AND REHEARSAL OF SPECIAL COMPOSITION WITH KENYAN DRUMMERS PRIOR TO FIRST PERFORMANCE. HOWEVER, DEPENDING ON GILLESPIE'S COMMITMENTS IN EUROPE PRIOR TO NAIROBI ARRIVAL, GROUP MAY WISH TO FOREGO DECEMBER 8 PERFORMANCE AND INCLUDE OUTDOOR PERFORMANCE DECEMBER 11 AS ONE OF THREE PERFORMANCES DESPITE POSSIBLE RISKS OF ADVERSE WEATHER AND INADEQUATE CROWD CONTROL.

3. GROUP WILL BE GUESTS OF GOK DURING ENTIRE STAY. HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS WILL BE AT EITHER INTER-CONTINENTAL OR PANAFRIC. GACHUKIA PROPOSES TO PROVIDE TWO VEHICLES (ONE SEDAN AND ONE KOMBI) WITH DRIVERS FOR EXCLUSIVE USE OF GROUP WHILE HERE. GOK WILL ALSO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE ESCORT PERSONNEL, PROBABLY FROM VOICE OF KENYA, TO ASSIST GROUP DURING ENTIRE STAY. HOWEVER, BEFORE MAKING DEFINITE ESCORT ASSIGNMENT, GOK WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING PERTINENT BIOGRAPHIC DATA ON MEMBERS OF QUARTET. (SEE NAIROBI 7534 OF NOVEMBER 7.) IF FULL DETAILS INCOMPLETE, WOULD APPRECIATE CABLED SUMMARY ASAP.

4. GACHUKIA SUGGESTS THAT SAFARI FOR QUARTET COULD BEST BE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN AFTER DECEMBER 12. DEPENDING ON TIME AVAILABLE AND INTERESTS OF GROUP, GOK QUITE FLEXIBLE ON THIS ASPECT OF GROUP'S STAY IN KENYA. GACHUKIA SUGGESTED THAT THEY MIGHT WISH TO VISIT KEEKOROK, OR PERHAPS SOME OTHER GAME LODGE, THEN FLY TO NAKURU TO SEE FLAMINGOS, OR PERHAPS GO TO MOMBASA. WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING PREFERENCES OF GROUP IN THIS REGARD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NAIROB07825
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NAIROBI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731129/aaaaavaz.tel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 212137
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 FEB 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04-Feb-2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KENYAN TENTH ANNIVERSARY: DIZZY GILLESPIE
TAGS: OEXC, KE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005